

that people of different religious paths may learn to live side-by-side in peace and in harmony.

We ask Thy blessing upon these members of our Congress, the spiritual heirs of those who were so instrumental in bestowing upon the seed of Israel the restoration of their homeland. We pray that our President will succeed in his determined mission of building peace with security and of shining the bright light of freedom upon that benighted part of the world.

Grant that our President and Vice President and all our elected leaders will be blessed with clear vision to see and understand the future, and the courage and heart to make it a blessed and beautiful reality.

We pray in the words of Isaiah: May the spirit of the Lord rest upon us, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANTOS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING DR. DAVID HALPERN, RABBI, FLATBUSH PARK JEWISH CENTER, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

(Mr. LANTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to welcome to the Chamber

Rabbi David Halpern, who offered our opening prayer. I thank him for his thoughtful invocation.

Madam Speaker, Rabbi Halpern's accomplishments in his community of Flatbush, Brooklyn, have touched many lives across the Nation, and his work merits national recognition.

He leads the Flatbush Park Jewish Center. He is the Principal of the religious school there, which he helped found in 1952. He sought to create a place where religiously observant and religiously curious alike can feel comfortable; to advance the goal of Jewish learning; and to support Jewish causes around our country and around the globe. He also served as a Chaplain in the 71st Infantry of the 42nd Division of the National Guard for 10 years, and he sits on the New York board of Rabbis.

Madam Speaker, the esteem in which the Flatbush Park Jewish Center is held indicates that Rabbi Halpern's efforts have been an unqualified success. In recognition of his sense of compassion and leadership, he was chosen to speak on behalf of the community of Flatbush in the wake of the 9/11 tragedy.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted that he was able to share some of his wisdom and grace with us today. We admire his commitment to his faith and to his community.

MODERNIZING MEDICARE

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the House in support of the Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act, which will be marked up in the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Energy and Commerce this morning.

Modernizing Medicare with a prescription drug benefit puts a down payment on a healthy future for Americans. The House has an historic opportunity to bring up to date our health care system for millions of seniors.

The bill that will soon be before this House reflects the compassionate conservatism of my party. It is compassionate because it is providing much needed prescription drug coverage to Americans on a fixed income. It is conservative because prescription drugs often provide the ounce of prevention that beats the pound of cure. It is conservative because this legislation will serve the people today without breaking the bank tomorrow. It makes no financial sense to cover astronomically expensive surgery and not cover drugs that could have prevented that surgery.

We have promised a benefit to our seniors for years. This year, this year, Madam Speaker, it is time to deliver.

WELCOMING DR. DAVID HALPERN, RABBI, FLATBUSH PARK JEWISH CENTER, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

(Mr. WEINER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, it is not usual that a relatively young man like myself can say that I have known someone well for nearly 20 years, but it is in that spirit that I welcome Rabbi David Halpern here this morning and thank him for his thoughtful words.

Brooklyn is full of distinguished spiritual leaders, and Rabbi Halpern stands out as a giant among them. Rabbi Halpern is a past President of the Rabbinical Board of Flatbush, where he served as Chairman of the Board's Membership Committee for 13 years. He is also a prominent member of other Rabbinical organizations and the Rabbinical Council of the United States.

He is widely respected and recognized for his intellect and wisdom, but, if there is one thing that distinguishes Rabbi Halpern, it is dedication not only to his faith, but in particular to his congregants and his community. More than 50 years ago, Rabbi Halpern became the first Rabbi of the Flatbush Park Jewish Center. And more than 50 years later, Rabbi Halpern is still there, and the community is stronger than ever.

Under his leadership, Flatbush Park has grown from a gathering of only 65 families in a rented store into a Modern Orthodox congregation of more than 500 family members. Today, there are thousands of people in Brooklyn and beyond whose spiritual lives were shaped by Rabbi Halpern.

As hard as I try to express what Rabbi Halpern means to this community, the ultimate testament is how many people joined him on his journey to Washington today. Dozens from his community, as well as distinguished Rabbis, are here in his honor, and it is my particular pleasure to welcome Rabbi Halpern's wife Sheila, his son Neil, his daughters Risa and Beth, his son-in-law Dennis and his granddaughter Lauren who are in Washington on this most important occasion.

In closing, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and our grateful community, I would like to thank Rabbi Halpern for his eloquent words this morning and for his service to our whole country.

HONORING JACKSON TOBISKA, 2003 PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mr. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jackson Tobiska, a senior at Orange County's High School of the Arts, for being selected as a 2003 Presidential Scholar.

Jackson is one of 137 winners of this very prestigious award, selected nationally by a 32 member commission. It is comprised of leaders in education, medicine, law, social services and government, and they select the scholars. The scholars are selected based on their academic skills, on their community service, and, of course on their leadership skills.

In a time when there are budget cuts that are cutting across our education system and when our schools, especially in my home State, are suffering, it is refreshing to see that both students and teachers are dedicated to academic excellence.

I am very proud of Jackson for his hard work and for being selected as a Presidential Scholar for 2003. He reminds us that with determination and with dedication, anything is possible.

INVESTIGATING REASONS FOR GOING TO WAR

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, the Committee on International Relations is at this very moment reviewing a resolution of inquiry submitted by me and cosponsored by 36 Members of the House of Representatives asking for the administration to provide whatever evidence to this Congress that caused them to send this country on a path towards war against Iraq.

The American people have a right to know why their sons and daughters were sent to war. They have a right to know whether or not this administration provided the American public with information that was false.

We need to know on what basis did the American people learn from this administration that there was an imminent threat, and, in fact, was there an imminent threat coming from Iraq, did Iraq have weapons of mass destruction that posed an imminent threat.

It is up to the Committee on International Relations of the House to provide the American people with an opportunity to get that information from this administration. This Congress exists to provide a balance to administrative power, and it is time that this Congress stood up to its responsibility. The people have a right to know, was there an imminent threat and where are the weapons of mass destruction.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on postponed questions will be taken later today.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH BULLDOGS FOR WINNING THE NCAA 2003 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 171) commending the University of Minnesota Duluth Bulldogs for winning the NCAA 2003 National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 171

Whereas on Sunday, March 23, 2003, the two-time defending NCAA National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey champion, the University of Minnesota Duluth Bulldogs, won the National Championship for the third straight year;

Whereas Minnesota Duluth defeated Harvard University in double overtime of the championship game by the score of 4-3, having defeated Dartmouth College 5-2 in the semifinal;

Whereas sophomore Nora Tallus scored the game-winning goal in the second overtime, assisted by Erika Holst and Joanne Eustace;

Whereas during the 2002-2003 season, the Bulldogs won an impressive 31 games, while losing only 3 and tying 2;

Whereas forwards Jenny Potter, Hanne Sikio, and Caroline Ouellette were selected to the 2003 All-Tournament team and Caroline Ouellette was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player;

Whereas the Bulldogs are the only team in the country to earn a berth in the women's national championship tournament in each year of its existence;

Whereas junior forward Jenny Potter was one of three finalists for the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, given annually to the most outstanding player in women's collegiate varsity ice hockey and was named to the Jofa Women's University Division Ice Hockey All-American First Team;

Whereas senior forward Maria Rooth, for the fourth time, was one of ten finalists for the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, and was named to the Jofa Women's University Division Ice Hockey All-American Second Team;

Whereas Minnesota Duluth Head Coach Shannon Miller, after winning the National Championship in three consecutive years, has been named a finalist for the American Hockey Coaches Association 2002-2003 University Division Women's Ice Hockey Coach of the Year Award; and

Whereas all of the team's players showed tremendous dedication throughout the season toward the goal of winning the National Championship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the University of Minnesota Duluth women's hockey team for winning the NCAA 2003 National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the team's players, coaches, and support staff and invites them to the United States Capitol Building to be honored;

(3) requests that the President recognize the achievements of the University of Minnesota Duluth women's hockey team and invite them to the White House for an appropriate ceremony honoring a national championship team; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled cop-

ies of this resolution to the University of Minnesota Duluth for appropriate display and to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to each coach and member of the NCAA 2003 National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship team.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 171.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 171; and I would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), for bringing this resolution forward.

Madam Speaker, this resolution recognizes the achievement of the University of Minnesota Duluth women's hockey team, the Bulldogs, for their NCAA National Collegiate championship. This victory marks the third consecutive national championship for the Bulldogs.

The national champion Bulldogs deserve recognition for their double overtime victory against a talented Harvard University team. In addition to the inspiring team victory, four individuals distinguished themselves from the field: three young women from the University of Minnesota of Duluth were named to the All-Tournament team, and Coach Shannon Miller was named the 2003 AHCA Women's Division Coach of the Year. The distinction earned by these individuals and the remarkable repeat victories of the team reflect the dedication of each player, the leadership of Coach Shannon Miller, and the support of family, friends, and fans.

I extend my congratulations to each of the hard-working players on the successful Bulldog team, to Coach Miller, and to the University of Minnesota Duluth. I am happy to join my colleagues in honoring the accomplishment of this team and wish them continued success. I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to support House Resolution 171, commending the University of Minnesota Duluth women's hockey team for winning the NCAA 2003 National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship.

I also too want to congratulate Bulldog Coach Shannon Miller for being